

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 further comprising fasteners for attaching the rim to the wheel.

3. (Original) The assembly as defined in claim 2 wherein the side wall of the wheel defines a plurality of threaded holes and the side wall of the rim defines a plurality of holes alignable with the plurality of holes in the side wall of the wheel; and wherein the fasteners extend through the plurality of holes in the rim and the plurality of holes in the wheel to attach the rim to the wheel.

4. (Original) The assembly as defined in claim 3 wherein the fasteners are threaded bolts.

5. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 wherein the wheel and the rim have a central axis and the angle of the tapered surfaces in relation to the central axis is one degree.

6. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 wherein the tire is solid.

7. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 wherein the tire is made of an elastomer.

8. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in ~~claim 1~~ claim 10 wherein the rim is manufactured of stamped metal.

9. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in ~~claim 4~~ claim 10 wherein the wheel is manufactured of cast metal.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly as defined in claim 1 further comprising~~
A wheel assembly comprising:

a generally frustoconical wheel having a side wall and a circumferential lateral wall with a tapered outer surface;

a generally frustoconical rim having a side wall and a circumferential annular wall with an outer surface and a tapered inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel;

a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim; and in which the flange extends extending outwardly away from the wheel; and

a tire attached to the outer surface of the rim.

11. (Original) The assembly as defined in claim 10 wherein the flange provides spring-bias force to keep the annular wall of the rim adjacent the lateral wall of the wheel when the rim is installed on the wheel.

12. (Currently amended) The assembly as defined in claim 2 10 wherein the side wall of the wheel ~~has a side wall defining~~ defines at least one recessed area adapted to be partially covered by the side wall of the rim when the rim is installed on the wheel.

13. (Original) The assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein the recessed area is annular.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The assembly as defined in claim 13 wherein~~ A wheel assembly comprising:

a generally frustoconical wheel having a side wall and a circumferential lateral wall with a tapered outer surface;

a generally frustoconical rim having a side wall and a circumferential annular wall with an outer surface and a tapered inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel;

the side wall of the wheel defining an annular recessed area adapted to be partially covered by the side wall of the rim when the rim is installed on the wheel;

the recessed area is area being adapted to receive a pry bar; and

a tire attached to the outer surface of the rim.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method as defined in ~~claim 15~~ claim 19 further including the step of applying pressure to the rim to partially install the rim and tire on the wheel.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) ~~The method as defined in claim 18 in which~~ A method of installing a rim and tire on a wheel assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a wheel with a side wall and a lateral wall with a tapered outer surface and a rim with a side wall and an annular wall having an outer surface and a tapered inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel; the rim includes including a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim; and in which the flange extends extending outwardly away from the wheel; and a tire attached to the outer surface of the annular wall;

sliding the complementary surfaces over one another until they frictionally engage;

aligning holes found in the side wall of the rim with threaded holes found in the side wall of the wheel;

inserting a threaded bolt through each hole in the side wall of the rim and into the aligned threaded holes in the wheel;

fastening the rim to the wheel with the bolts, thereby and the threading step of the method further includes the step of creating a spring bias via the flange which facilitates sliding the rim onto the wheel.

20. (Previously presented) A method of removing a rim and tire from a wheel assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a wheel having a side wall and a lateral wall extending therefrom having a tapered outer surface; a rim having a side wall and an annular wall with an outer surface and a tapered inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel; a tire attached to the outer surface of the annular wall; the side wall of the wheel defining at least one recessed area partially covered by the side wall of the rim; and fasteners connecting the rim to the wheel;

removing the fasteners;

inserting a pry bar into the at least one recessed area; and

prying the rim away from the wheel with the pry bar.

21. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 20 in which the rim includes a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim; and in which the flange extends outwardly away from the wheel; and the prying step of the method further includes the step of creating a spring bias via the flange which facilitates the removal of the rim from the wheel.

22. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 21 in which the side wall of the wheel defines a plurality of threaded holes and the side wall of the rim defines a plurality of holes spaced around ~~the central~~ a central hole and aligned with the threaded holes; a plurality of bolts are inserted through the holes in the rim and threaded into the holes in the wheel to attach the rim to the wheel; and in which removing step of the method further comprises the step of:

unthreading the bolts.

23. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 22 further comprising the step of applying force to the rim to assist in the removal.

24. (New) A wheel assembly comprising:

a wheel having a side wall and a circumferential lateral wall with an outer surface;

a rim having a side wall and a circumferential annular wall with an outer surface and an inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel;

the side wall of the wheel defining at least one recessed area which is partially covered by the side wall of the rim when the rim is installed on the wheel; the recessed area being adapted to receive a pry bar; and

a tire attached to the outer surface of the rim.

25. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein the outer surface of the lateral wall of the wheel is generally frustoconical and the inner surface of the annular wall of the rim is generally frustoconical.

26. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein the at least one recessed area is annular.

27. (New) A method of installing a rim and tire on a wheel assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a wheel having a circumferential lateral wall with an outer surface and a rim with a side wall and an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel; the rim including a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim; the flange extending outwardly away from the wheel; and a tire attached to the outer surface of the annular wall;

positioning the tapered inner surface of the annular wall of the rim over the tapered outer surface of the lateral wall of the wheel; and

creating a spring bias via the flange which facilitates sliding the rim onto the wheel.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further including the step of applying pressure on the side wall of the rim in a direction toward the wheel to create the spring bias.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 further including the step of fastening the rim to the wheel to create the pressure on the side wall.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the step of fastening the rim to the wheel includes the step of threading threaded bolts into threaded holes formed in the wheel.

31. (New) The assembly of claim 27 wherein the outer surface of the lateral wall of the wheel is generally frustoconical and the inner surface of the annular wall of the rim is generally frustoconical.

32. (New) A method of removing a rim and tire from a wheel assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a wheel having a side wall and a lateral wall extending therefrom having an outer surface; a rim having a side wall and an annular wall with an outer surface and an inner surface complementary with the outer surface of the wheel; a tire attached to the outer surface of the annular wall; the side wall of the wheel defining at least one recessed area partially covered by the side wall of the rim; and fasteners connecting the rim to the wheel;

removing the fasteners;

inserting a pry bar into the at least one recessed area; and

prying the rim away from the wheel with the pry bar.

33. (New) The method as defined in claim 32 in which the rim includes a flange extending between the side wall and annular wall of the rim; and in which the flange extends outwardly away from the wheel; and the prying step of the method further includes the step of creating a spring bias via the flange which facilitates the removal of the rim from the wheel.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the at least one recessed area is annular.